

Based Upon: PCT/CH00/00351

closed state the first casing wall (10) and the second casing wall (20) extend flush above each other, the improvement comprising: the lower part (1) and the cap (2) connectible with each other by a snap hinge having at least one spring element (24, 124, 204) and at least one coupling element (27, 127, 270), in the closed state of the closure (3) the at least one spring element (24, 124, 204) and the at least one coupling element (27, 127, 270) at least approximately flush with the first casing wall (10) and the second casing wall (20) and are formed in one piece.

2. (Amended) In the two-part hinge closure in accordance with claim 1, wherein the lower part (1) has at least one of a pouring spout (12) and a pouring opening, and the cap (2) has a sealing element (33) which sealingly acts together with the at least one of the pouring spout (12) and the pouring opening in an interlocking manner.

3. (Amended) In the two-part hinge closure in accordance with claim 1, wherein the at least one spring element has two strap retainers (24), wherein ends of the strap retainers (24) project away from one of the lower part (1) and the cap (2) on which each of the strap retainers is injection-molded and are connected with each other by the at least one coupling element (27).

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4. (Amended) In the two-part hinge closure in accordance with claim 1, wherein the at least one spring element (124, 204) has a snap hinge (101, 200) bordered by two curved film hinges which approach each other and then move away from each other, wherein one of the film hinges (125, 202) forms a first connection with the cap (2) to which the at least one spring element is injection-molded, and an other of the film hinges (126, 204) forms a second connection with the at least one coupling element (127, 270).

5. (Amended) In the two-part hinge closure in accordance with claim 4, wherein the at least one spring element (124) which includes a snap hinge (101) is a flexible material strip (100) on which the at least one coupling element (127) is formed.

6. (Amended) In the two-part hinge closure in accordance with claim 1, wherein a concentric receiving slit (16) which is offset toward a center by a thickness of a casing is provided on one of the lower part (1) and the cap (2), in which the at least one coupling element which is fixedly connected with an other of the lower part (1) and the cap (2) is received in an at least one of an interlocking manner and a frictionally connected manner.

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7. (Amended) In the two-part hinge closure in accordance with claim 6, wherein the one of the lower part (1) and the cap (2) with the receiving slit (16) has at least one recess (14) which secures free mobility of the at least one spring element (24, 124) during an opening and closing movement.

8. (Amended) In the two-part hinge closure in accordance with claim 5 wherein, at least one rib (128) of one of the lower part (1) and the cap (2) connected in a snapped-in fashion with ribs (122) on an other of one of the lower part (1) and the cap (2), is provided on the at least one coupling element (127) which is connected in one piece with the lower part (1) and the cap (2).

9. (Amended) In the two-part hinge closure in accordance with claim 1, wherein a security strip (4) is injection-molded to one of the lower part (1) and the cap (2) on which the at least one spring element (24, 124) and the at least one coupling element (27, 127) are arranged.

10. (Amended) In the two-part hinge closure in accordance with claim 9, wherein the at least one coupling element (27, 127) and the security strip (4) extend at least by a same distance above a casing wall edge of one of the lower part (1) and the cap (2).

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11. (Amended) In the two-part hinge closure in accordance with claim 5, wherein one of the first casing wall (10) and the second casing wall (20) has a recess (120) which has a shape and a size of a material strip (100) which is injection-molded on an other of the lower part (1) and the cap (2).

12. (Amended) In the two-part hinge closure in accordance with claim 1, wherein a security strip (4) is arranged on one of the lower part (1) and the cap (2) which extends around as far as a hinge area of the closure.

13. (Amended) In the two-part hinge closure in accordance with claim 1, wherein a security strip (400) is arranged on the lower part (1) which is free of a spring element (204) and the at least one coupling element (270) and is at least approximately completely circumferential.

14. (Amended) In the two-part hinge closure in accordance with claim 1, wherein the lower part (1) and the cap (2) are injection molded from at least one of a different plastic material and a different color.

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15. (Amended) In the two-part hinge closure in accordance with claim 14, wherein at least one of the lower part (1) and the cap (2) is made of PET.

16. (Amended) In the two-part hinge closure in accordance with claim 1, wherein the at least one coupling element (27, 127, 270) in an assembled state forms a part of one of the first casing wall (10) and the second casing wall (20).

17. (Amended) In the two-part hinge closure in accordance with claim 1, wherein a pressing element (19) is arranged on one of the lower part (1) and the cap (2) which in an assembled state keeps the at least one coupling element (27, 127) frictionally connected with retaining projections (19').

18. (Amended) In the two-part hinge closure in accordance with claim 4, wherein the at least one spring element (204) is arranged between the cap (2) and a ring-shaped coupling element (270) which is formed flush on the second casing wall (20) by a tear seam (271).

19. (Amended) In the two-part hinge closure in accordance with claim 18, wherein in an upper area (211) the first casing wall (10) has a shoulder (212) which is offset inward by a thickness of the first casing wall (10).

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20. (Amended) In the two-part hinge closure in accordance with claim 19, wherein a security strip (400) is formed by a predetermined breaking seam (401) in an area of the shoulder (212).

21. (Amended) In the two-part hinge closure in accordance with claim 19, wherein a second upper area (210) of the second casing wall (20) has retaining notches (211) and the at least one coupling element (270) has retaining beads (206) which interlockingly fit into retaining notches.

22. (Amended) In the two-part hinge closure in accordance with claim 20, wherein the security strip (400) has a retaining lip (402) which interlockingly extends over a portion of the cap (2).

23. (Amended) In the two-part hinge closure in accordance with claim 22, wherein the cap (2) has a pressure bead (205) on a lower edge of the second casing wall (20) which is interlockingly held by the retaining lip (402).